

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 21-24 and 27-30 are pending in the application. Claims 25 and 26 have been cancelled. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

In the Office Action, claims 25 and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,076,091 (Fohn et al.). Although Applicants believe there are significant differences between the invention as recited in claims 25 and 26 and the disclosure of Fohn et al., in order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants have cancelled claims 25 and 26 (without prejudice or disclaimer), thereby rendering the rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Also in the Office Action, claim 27 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but identified as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants have rewritten claim 27 in independent form. Claim 27 therefore is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

As no other rejections or objections have been made in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 21-24 and 27-30 are now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and request that the application be passed to issue with claims 21-24 and 27-30.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which may be necessary to have this Amendment considered. Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner

to debit our Account No. 04-1073 (under Order No. E0710.0000/P001) for any fees  
deemed necessary for that purpose.

Dated: May 27, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By

Eric Oliver

Registration No.: 35,307

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &  
OSHINSKY LLP

2101 L Street NW

Washington, DC 20037-1526

(202) 785-9700

Attorneys for Applicants